

II. REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter (Office Action, dated June 22, 2009, at 7, lines 5-8).

By the present paper, claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 11 have been amended. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of previous claim 2. In fact, claim 1 now has the same scope as previous claim 2. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend upon claim 5. Claims 9 and 11 have been amended to address minor informalities relating to punctuation, and not for a reason related to patentability. The present amendment has no further limiting effect on the scope of claims 9 and 11.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the above-captioned application.

III. CONCLUSION

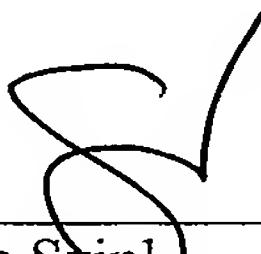
In view of the present amendment, claims 1-14 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Furthermore, independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance because it incorporates the allowable subject matter of previous claim 2. Claims 2-14 each depend upon claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and are, therefore, likewise in condition for allowance.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance, and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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